

wherein X' is O or S, but preferably O. All of the foregoing being alcohol or thiol groups known to form active esters in the field of peptide chemistry wherein said alcohol or thiol group is displaced by the reaction of the N- α -amine of the amino acid with the carbonyl carbon of the ester. It should be apparent that the active ester (e.g. N-hydroxysuccinimidyl ester) of any suitable labelling/tagging reagent described herein could be prepared using well-known procedures (See: Greg T. Hermanson(1996). "The Chemistry of Reactive Groups" in "Bioconjugate Techniques" Chapter 2 pages 137-165, Academic Press, (New_York); also see: Innovation And Perspectives In Solid Phase Synthesis, Editor: Roger Epton, SPCC (UK) Ltd, Birmingham, 1990). Methods for the formation of active esters of N-substituted piperazine acetic acids compounds that are representative examples of labelling reagents of the general formula: RP-X-LK-Y-RG, are described in co-pending and commonly owned United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/751,354, incorporated herein by reference.

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10-13-06
Please amend the paragraph at page 10, lines ¹⁷~~16~~ to 28 as follows:

The reporter either comprises a fixed charge or is capable of becoming ionized. Because the reporter either comprises a fixed charge or is capable of being ionized, the labeling reagent might be isolated or used to label the reactive analyte in a salt or zwitterionic form. Ionization of the reporter facilitates its determination in a mass spectrometer. Accordingly, the reporter can be determined as an ion, sometimes referred to as a signature ion. When ionized, the reporter can comprise one or more net positive or negative charges. Thus, the reporter can comprise one or more acidic groups or basic groups since such groups can be easily ionized in a mass spectrometer. For example, the reporter can comprise one or more basic nitrogen atoms (positive charge) or one or more ionizable acidic groups such as a carboxylic acid group, sulfonic acid group or phosphoric acid group (negative charge). Non-limiting examples of reporters comprising a basic nitrogen include, substituted or unsubstituted, morpholines, piperidines or piperazines.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, line 29 to page 15, line 6 as follows:

These types of mass spectrometers may be used in conjunction with a variety of ionization sources, including, but not limited to, electrospray ionization (ESI) and matrix-